

1.8.C.(4b).Sons Tested on Earth. Mark 1.12-13.

Mark 1:12-13.

¹² The **Spirit immediately drove him** out into the wilderness. ¹³ And he was in the **wilderness** forty days, being **tempted** by **Satan**. And he was with the **wild animals**, and the angels were **ministering to him** (Mark 1:12-13).

¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Though our **outer self** is wasting away, our **inner self** is being **renewed** day by day. ¹⁷ For this **light momentary**

affliction is preparing for us an **eternal weight of glory** beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ as we **look** not to the things that are seen but to the things that are **unseen**. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are **unseen are eternal**. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Background:

- Gen. 2:4. Heirs of Heaven and Earth in the flesh must be redeemed to see Kingdom. Our first father, Adam, was created as a being of both *flesh* (from dirt) and *spirit* (God's breath) (Genesis 2:7), and he and his generations were to inhabit a world *blessed* by

God and bathed in his presence. Though Adam and Eve were *naked in the flesh*, they were still covered by a spiritual life by which they lived with God unafraid.

But, when they chose to *usurp* God's Lordship at the tree, they died spiritually—all that was left of them was their *naked flesh*. Uncovered of God's life, they were thrust into a land now "cursed" and barren of God's presence. Evermore, this world is now a land of "darkness" and cast in the "shadow of death" (Isaiah 9:2).

In this *spiritual wilderness*, there is no permanent trace of the *spiritual life* we once had in the garden. Until the "Son of God" descended and was born as "Jesus" (Mark 1:1), being the "great light" (Is. 9:2) who now brings

the “light of life” (John 8:12) to his disciples, those who “receive” him (John 1:12-13).

So, you who have *received* Jesus Mashiach as your Lord, you are *reborn* by the Spirit to once again have a life both of heaven and earth! However, this is the condition you now live in:

- Mark 1:14. Spiritual Ministry.

Focus:

- Gen. 2:4. Heirs of Heaven and Earth in the flesh must be redeemed to see Kingdom.
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- Mark 1:13: Tested in this World by Satan.
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- Mark 1:14. Spiritual Ministry.
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Consider:

By the Holy Spirit, you now have the very *life of God* in you, and you are meant to grow up in your salvation to resemble increasingly the glorious image of the Lord Jesus (Romans 8:28-30).

Though you have been forgiven and released from your sin debt, *you still inhabit a body of flesh* that is still dead, with nothing “good” in your flesh (Rom.) and with this bodily nature still longing for the Godless life of lawlessness in which it was formed (Rom. 8:). So, to “grow” spiritually is to let the Spirit of God lead you to “put to death the deeds of the body” (Rom. 8:) and to live as

“crucified” with Christ by “faith” (Galatians 2:20).

One day, you and I will be resurrected with Jesus Mashiach, so that our bodies of flesh will finally transformed to *be as his heavenly body*, no longer infected with sin and death as the bodies we inherited from our father Adam. But, until that day, remember that you will be called to resist the flesh, to redirect its errant ways into the way of righteousness, and to be free of its death-grip until the day you are finally free! However, even the best of us, such as the apostle Paul, admitted, “I am the worst of sinners” (1 Timothy 1:15) even at the end of his life work. Why? Even though we grow spiritually by God’s grace, and, as Paul had, spread the Gospel and raised up other disciples, our spiritual selves mature but our *fleshly selves* remain in corruption, as hungry and rebellious as in the days before we came to Mashiach! So, this

world will ever be a place of *testing* for you, increasingly enticing your *flesh* to abandon your love and devotion for Jesus Mashiach and return to darkness.

Mark 1:13: Tested in this World by Satan.

Because this world is to be a place of *testing* for all the reborn sons of God who find life in Jesus Mashiach, their Redeemer is sent to be *tested* in the harshest conditions. (Read Matthew 4 to understand the specifics of this testing).

What is important to note is that it was the Spirit who led him into the “wilderness” (11). For you, the Lord’s will may take you to places that are a “wilderness” for you, a place of hardship where you will be called to endure and overcome testing. Picture this “wilderness” setting for Jesus as a place where you also will encounter testing:

World: The “wilderness” is an intensified experience of how this *dark world* will tempt us by luring us back to our old life of the flesh. Though the Lord Mashiach establishes the spiritual Kingdom of God on earth in the midst of this darkness, the Kingdom now only resides in the hearts of his people and their congregation, like little *embassies* in a vast land of death and darkness ruled by the Serpent’s dark power.

Hunger: So, in his testing, the Lord Jesus was in the wilderness for “forty days” of testing in a time of deprivation. In testing, you will feel the pangs of hunger, as the material things that sustain your bodily life are withheld. Perhaps there is a shortage of food. Or, a lonely absence of companionship. Even, in dire circumstances, you may lack the financially resources to provide for your needs. These experience of lack and the *fear*

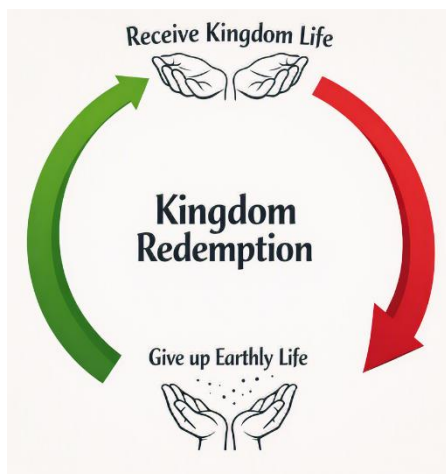
of death and loss will often test your willingness to stay faithful to the Lord and deny your flesh the sin it so desperately wants.

Redemption: Keep in mind that when we are tested, we are *tempted* to save or salvage what remains of our old life of the flesh. The flesh wants to stay alive in this world—to experience, to accumulate, or to accomplish some work in this world. But, the problem is that this world is passing. And, by our choices, Jesus teaches that can *treasure and invest in* only one realm—this world of the flesh, which is passing and is ultimately futile, or the coming realm of the Kingdom, which leads to eternal glory. We can either impact one or the other, acquire an inheritance in one or the other. For, ultimately, when we choose either to follow the flesh or to follow the commands of God and Jesus, we reveal

what it is we truly love: our Self-life or the Lord Jesus Mashiach and his Father?

This is why Jesus Mashiach calls us to not “love” or hold fast to our lives in this passing world but rather to be willing to “lose” our lives in this world (Luke 9:23-25; John 12:25). For,

when we resist little temptations and “lose” an opportunity for our flesh to even “sacrificing” for the kingdom significant things—our time, our comforts, our possessions, our futures, even our very lives. These “losses” are actually *sacrifices* we give to the Lord for his Kingdom’s advancement.



So, the Lord Jesus will *redeem* what we lose of our fleshly or worldly life and give us back a portion of his kingdom—whether it is a next step in your maturing as a disciple, or a new opportunity, or a new role or responsibility in the kingdom, now that you have proven that you value the Lord more than you value your Self or your old life. Or, this Kingdom Return may be just added to your account, for Paul says: “These light, momentary afflictions are gaining for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison” (2 Corinthians 4:17).

Resisting Temptation:

#1: God gives you a “way of escape,” so take it.

¹³ No **temptation** has overtaken you that is not common to man. **God is faithful**, and he will not let you be

tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. 1 Corinthians 10:13

#2: Your *flesh* is already crucified in Mashiach, so surrender and give it up for crucifixion!

And those who belong to Christ Jesus have **crucified the flesh** with its passions and desires. Galatians 5:24

#3: If you are accustomed to the goodness of your New Life in Mashiach, the flesh is useless to obtain life, only death. If tempted, fortify soul with Word.

It is the **Spirit** who gives **life**; **the flesh** is **no help** at all. The words that I have

spoken to you are **spirit** and **life**.

John 6:63

#4: Obeying to resist the flesh is proof of your love for Jesus Mashiach.

²¹ Whoever has my commandments and **keeps** them, he it is **who loves me**. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.” John 14:21

3. Mark 1:14. Spiritual Ministry.

Finally, notice that the eventual comfort for the Lord Jesus after he was tempted was from the “angels... ministering to him” (1:13). That is, as a son of God with the Spirit’s life in you, expect nothing but *testing and loss* in this earthly life.

And, when you feel exhausted from the trials, know that your *main* comfort will come not from the world but from the Kingdom's rich comfort.

Question:

Tempted in World:

Matthew 4:1-10.

¹² The **Spirit immediately drove him** out into the wilderness. ¹³ And he was in the **wilderness** forty days, being **tempted** by **Satan**. And he was with the **wild animals**, and the angels were **ministering to him**. Matthew 10:1-4

What does it mean to be a Son of God?

- Fed by Father's Word: (4)
- Follow Father's Will (7)
- Father alone Worshipped: (10)